

16 September 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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16 September 1966

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)
2. USSR: Photographs from Cosmos 122 transmitted to the US for the first time. (Page 3)

25X1

4. Congo (Kinshasa): Mobutu moves to strengthen his position in two troublesome provinces. (Page 5)

25X1

6. Communist China: Peking leaders to continue using Red Guards against party opponents at local level. (Page 7)

7. Notes: US-USSR; Chinese Representation; France. (Page 9)

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

16 September 1966

*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: With the constituent assembly election now over, the long-rumored replacement of Deputy Premier Co and IV Corps commander Quang may take place in the near future.

[redacted] Premier Ky recently confronted General Co with the accusation that Co was planning a coup supported by two currently unassigned generals. Coup rumors were circulating in the capital just prior to the 11 September elections, but it is not clear whether these rumors had any validity or whether they were spread by Ky's supporters to lay the groundwork for a future move against General Co.

25X1

Earlier this month, Premier Ky reportedly stated that he had proof of plotting against the government by IV Corps commander General Quang.

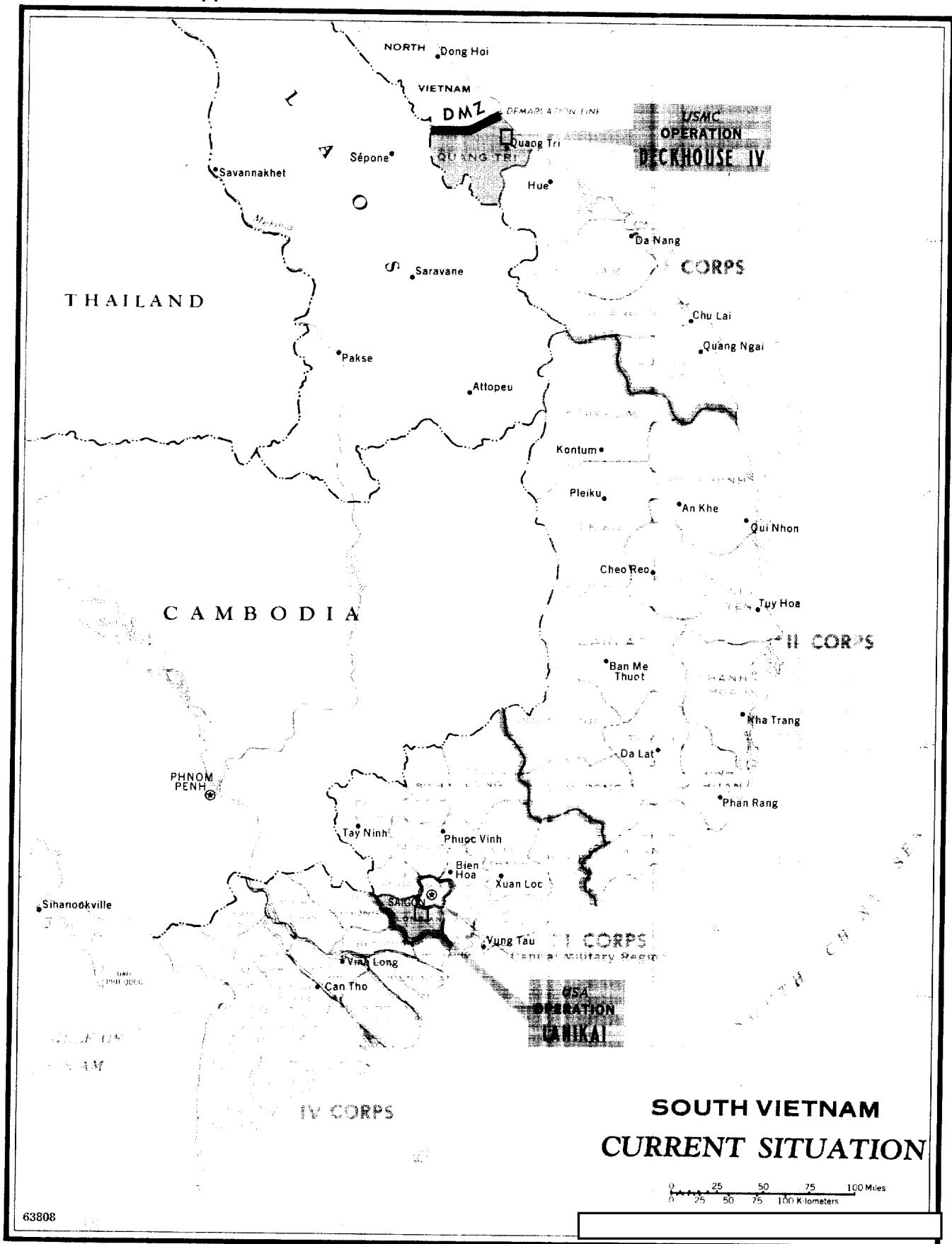
[redacted]

25X1

In another development, press reports this morning state that militant Buddhist monk Tri Quang has announced an end to his 100-day-old hunger strike. He said he was ordered to do so by Buddhist patriarch Tinh Khiet and that he needed to stay alive to carry on the struggle against the Ky government. Quang had at one time indicated that he would obey any such order from Tinh Khiet. The US Embassy notes, however, that these press reports remain unconfirmed, and one Buddhist source has denied that Quang has ended his fast.

[redacted]

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25X1

16 Sep 66 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: There have been no reports of significant contact with enemy forces during the past 24 hours.

One reinforced battalion of US Marines yesterday initiated Operation DECK HOUSE IV about three miles south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Quang Tri Province. The operation is designed to assist other US troops already in place along the DMZ in preventing a Communist buildup in the country's northernmost province. There were no immediate reports of any enemy contact.

Elsewhere yesterday, a battalion of the US 25th Infantry Division initiated Operation LANIKAI in Long An Province about 20 miles southwest of Saigon. The Viet Cong 2nd Battalion, with an estimated strength of 400 men, is reported to be in the area. (Map)

Military Developments in North Vietnam: Preliminary analysis of photography taken on 1 September indicates the presence of a new North Vietnamese SAM site--No. 136--about 55 miles from the DMZ. If confirmed, this site will represent the furthest southward extension of DRV surface-to-air missile defenses.

The North Vietnamese may have decided to move SA-2 missile equipment into this area to counter the heavy US tactical air activity near the DMZ or to attempt to shoot down a B-52. Photography of a vehicle park located less than a mile from the suspected site reveals the presence of several SA-2s loaded on transporters. [REDACTED]

25X1

16 Sep 66

2

25X1

USSR: Cloud pictures photographed by Cosmos 122, the Soviet meteorological satellite, were transmitted to the United States for the first time this week.

On 17 August the Soviets began sending to the US cloud analysis charts based on television and infrared photography from Cosmos 122, claiming that these charts fulfilled the 1962 US-USSR agreement to exchange satellite weather data. The agreement, however, stipulates that the actual photographs as well as analyses are to be exchanged.

Although the photographs were degraded in electrical transmission to the US, their resolution is adequate to meet the terms of the agreement. Their original resolution was comparable to that of the US weather satellites. The usefulness of the photographs for forecasting purposes was reduced because they were not transmitted to the US until one day after they were taken.

[REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] The Soviets have announced that a system composed of two or three satellites will be required to establish an operational USSR-wide weather system. Such a system is not expected to be operational for at least a year. [REDACTED]

25X1

16 Sep 66

3

[REDACTED]

25X1

25X1



Approved For Release 2003/05/16 : CIA-RDP79T00975A009200130001-5

Congo (Kinshasa): President Mobutu has moved to strengthen his position in two perennially troublesome provinces.

The Congolese radio announced yesterday that the governors and vice-governors of Sud-Katanga and Sud-Kivu would be detained in Kinshasa (Leopoldville) until two investigative commissions have reported on their suspected subversive activity. Military commanders were ordered to assume administrative control in the two provinces.

By this means Mobutu seems to be seeking a political hold in two remote provinces which Congolese governments have rarely been able to control, and where there is considerable sentiment favorable to former premier Tshombé. Any popular resistance or opposition from the Sud-Katanga police force--which is loyal to Governor Munongo--would severely test the capabilities of the Congolese Army. [REDACTED] (Map)

25X1

16 Sep 66

5

25X1

25X1

*Communist China: The ruling leadership in Peking evidently intends to continue using the Red Guards against opponents in local party committees throughout the country.

Speaking to a mammoth rally in Peking yesterday, Defense Minister Lin Piao told Red Guards from all over the country that their activities had already created "utter consternation" among powerful party leaders who are "taking the capitalist road." Repeating what he had said at similar rallies on 18 and 31 August, Lin Piao declared that striking down such people was the main object of the cultural revolution.

Lin Piao urged the revolutionary youth to go home and "bombard the headquarters." There have been many reports in the past two weeks that Red Guard shock units were engaging in violent demonstrations against party committee headquarters in cities, provinces, and regions. Some local leaders have been goaded into fighting back, an action which could make them vulnerable to a charge made by Lin Piao that some people are opposing Mao by "instigating" attacks on Red Guards.

Lin's remarks were balanced by a relatively moderate speech by Premier Chou En-lai, who said that "to facilitate production" Red Guards should stay away from factories and farms. Chou was clearly concerned over the disruptive effect rampaging Red Guards could have on economic production.

(continued)

16 Sep 66

7

25X1

The 15 September rally was again used to display the new lineup of party leaders unveiled last month. It was attended by Mao Tse-tung, his "close comrade-in-arms" Lin Piao--the only leader now receiving this accolade--and Chou En-lai and 19 other "leading comrades" of the central committee. The meeting was opened by Kang Sheng, a longtime intelligence specialist who has just been elevated into the elite Standing Committee of the Politburo. [REDACTED]

25X1

* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State or of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

16 Sep 66

8

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25X1

NOTES

US-USSR: Moscow has again shown its willingness to cooperate with the US in limited areas unrelated to Vietnam. Foreign Minister Gromyko told Ambassador Kohler on 14 September that he might be ready to sign a US-Soviet civil air transport agreement during his forthcoming visit to New York. Gromyko's statement was in response to a recent US initiative on the agreement, which has been under consideration since 1961.

25X1

Chinese Representation: Foreign Minister Valdes told Ambassador Dungan on 14 September that he believed that Chile would have to abstain again this year on an "Albanian-type resolution" that would admit Communist China to the UN and expel Nationalist China. He said he had not yet checked this position with President Frei, however. Chile's surprise abstention on the "Albanian" resolution last year broke the solid Latin American opposition to Communist Chinese membership.

25X1

France: The French have come out against US-supported proposals for giving the World Bank a coordinating role in African development aid. French economic officials have told Ambassador Merchant, US director on the bank's board, that they see no merit in an increased role for the bank in this field. The negative French attitude may inhibit support by the EEC countries, a number of which had expressed interest in the proposals, and could prevent participation by the community as such in any World Bank consultative group.

25X1

16 Sep 66

9

25X1

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